GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4690
ANSWERED ON:09.05.2007
FISSILE MATERIAL CUT OFF TREATY
Chinta Mohan Dr. ;Singh Shri Rajiv Ranjan (Lalan)

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the USA had presented a draft on the Fissile Material Cut Off Treaty during the Disaster Management Conference held in Geneva;

(b) if so, the details of the said draft;

(c) whether India has also given its opinion thereto;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the present status of the said treaty?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE)

(a)-(b) Yes. The United States of America tabled a draft of Fissile Material Cut-off Treaty (FMCT) at the Conference on Disarmament (CD) in Geneva on 18th May 2006. The US draft proposes that no Party shall, after the entry into force of the Treaty for that Party, produce fissile material for nuclear weapons and other nuclear explosive devices, or use of any fissile material produced thereafter in nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices. It envisages a treaty of 15 years duration after its entry into force upon ratification by China, France, Russia, UK and USA.

(c)-(e) The draft proposed by USA is one of many proposals submitted to the CD by Member States on the FMCT. Negotiations on FMCT have not yet started. Government continue to attach importance to a non-discriminatory, multilateral and internationally and effectively verifiable treaty, prohibiting the future production of fissile material for nuclear weapons and other explosive devices.